

Message Text

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SUBJECT:EPA/EGYPTIAN CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT ON UTILIZA-
TION OF SLUDGE

1. IN MAY 1975, EPA REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS J. LEPINE AND DANIEL J. SNYDER MET WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS DRS. OSMAN BADRAN AND AHMAD EL SHABASY TO FOLLOW UP ON EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A JOINT PROJECT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF USING U.S. SLUDGE TO STABILIZE AND/OR RECLAIM ARID, ALKALINE EGYPTIAN SOIL. DR. BADRAN DESIGNATED DR. SHABASY CHAIRMAN OF AN EGYPTIAN WORKING GROUP TO PURSUE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A PROJECT. ALSO, IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT A MEETING OF EPA/EGYPTIAN WORK GROUPS WOULD BE HELD IN EGYPT IN OCTOBER.

2. AN EPA WORK GROUP OF EXPERTS IN SLUDGE UTILIZATION INCLUDING SOIL SCIENTISTS, CHEMICAL ENGINEERS, MICROBIOLOGIST-BACTERIOLOGISTS AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS HAS DISCUSSED THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CONTEMPLATED PROJECT. THE WORK GROUP DETERMINED THAT TECHNICAL AND LOGISTIC INFORMATION SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE EGYPTIAN SIDE PRIOR TO A JOINT UNCLASSIFIED

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EPA/EGYPTIAN MEETING.

3. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT A POSSIBLE SITE FOR

THE PROJECT WOULD BE IN THE PROXIMITY OF ALEXANDRIA. THE EPA WORK GROUP REQUESTS DATA ON THE POTENTIAL SITE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) SOIL CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDING SOIL TYPE, STRUCTURE, CATION EXCHANGE CAPABILITIES, INFILTRATION POTENTIAL AND PERCOLATION RATES.

(B) METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS; E.G., ANNUAL AVERAGES AND EXTREMES AND EVAPOTRANSPIRATION RATES.

(C) GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS PRESENT, WATER TABLES, DIRECTION OF AQUIFERS FLOWS, QUANTITY AND USE OF GROUND-WATER TABLE.

(D) AVAILABILITY AND COST OF UTILITIES; I.E., IRRIGATION WATER AND ELECTRICAL POWER.

(E) TYPE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES NEAR THE STUDY AREA; E.G., WITHIN A RADIUS OF 50 TO 100 MILES.

(F) QUANTITY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SLUDGES PRODUCED IN EGYPT, PARTICULARLY IN THE SITE AREA AND QUANTITY THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR COMPARATIVE STUDIES THAT MAY BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE JOINT PROJECT.

(G) TYPES OF CROPS TYPICALLY GROWN IN THE SITE AREA.

(H) PROXIMITY OF THE SITE AREA TO URBAN AND/OR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

4. REGARDING LOGISTICS ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE, IS A TANKER RECEIVING PORT LOCATED NEAR THE SITE? WHAT MEANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORTING SLUDGE FROM THE OFF-LOADING FACILITY? WOULD INTERIM STORAGE FACILITIES BE AVAILABLE AT OR NEAR THE OFF-LOADING PORT?

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5. IN THE EVENT AN EGYPTIAN INSTITUTE HAS BEEN SELECTED TO CONDUCT THE PROJECT, ARE BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND AGRONOMIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR PRE-PROJECT AND POST-PROJECT ANALYSIS OF SUCH ITEMS AS METALS IN CROPS, SOILS, WATER AND BACTERIA, VIRUSES AND PARASITES POTENTIAL ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAND APPLICATION OF SLUDGE? IS THE EGYPTIAN SIDE INTERESTED IN A PROJECT ON STABILIZATION, RECLAMATION OR A COMBINATION OF THE TWO?

6. THE EPA WORK GROUP WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A PREPROPOSAL THAT WOULD INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO A RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY EPA. SUCH A PREPROPOSAL WOULD REFLECT CONTINUING GOE INTEREST IN A JOINT PROJECT AND WOULD BE

USEFUL IN DETERMINING EPA'S FOLLOW UP.

7. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO OBTAIN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE
QUESTIONS AND, IF POSSIBLE, A PREPROPOSAL FROM DRS. BADRAN
AND AHMED EL SHABASY, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. INGERSOLL

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